

# Apply The Word

[www.crosswaypa.org](http://www.crosswaypa.org)



## Message Info

### Title:

Take Heart in Evil Times

### Speaker:

Peter Privitera

### Date:

May 17, 2020

### Scriptures:

1 Samuel 1-3

**Theme:** Take heart because in evil times God remembers his people and sends the Savior.

**Introduction:** The book of Judges ended with tremendous wickedness and chaos, as Israel had devolved into an evil nation and abandoned the Lord. It is into this context that Samuel was born. The Lord raised up Samuel during a time of great wickedness in Israel, and especially among her leaders. This demonstrated a common OT principle: as the leadership goes, so goes God's people.

But even through this wickedness in Israel we can see God at work in 3 steps:

#### 1. There are evil times and evil leaders

Eil was high priest in Israel, and his sons, Hophni and Phineas, were evil. They were defiling the sacrifice and defrauding God's people. Eli abdicated his role as their father and the Lord help him accountable.

In contrast, Elkanah was a righteous man. And he loved his wife, Hannah, though she was barren. But his other wife, Penninah, tormented Hannah in her sorrows. Hannah cried out to the Lord, and he eventually gave her a son, Samuel, whom she dedicated to the Lord. The Lord had changed her distress to peace.

#### 2. But God will always save his people

Samuel's is one in a line of miraculous birth stories, from Isaac to Jesus. The unlikeliness of his birth demonstrates that it is God who saves his people.

The Lord raises up Samuel as his prophet, speaking to him, and even using him to pronounce judgment on his mentor, Eli.

To some degree, Samuel fills all 3 leadership roles in Israel: prophet, priest, and king. He demonstrates that God is always saving his people—he is faithful.

#### 3. And his plan is more glorious than we can imagine

Hannah's Prayer (2:1-10) declares the greatness of God's character and his plan to save his people.

She even prophesies (v. 10) of a coming king, the king whom Israel had not even asked for, the king whom her son will anoint, and who will unite Israel.

The ultimate King who truly fulfilled all of the promises of God was to come many generations later: Jesus Christ. And in considering God's plan and his faithfulness to his people through every age, we can and should take heart.

### Questions:

1. How do you feel pressed by the evil in this world?
2. How are you responding to evil? Where are you demonstrating unbelief? Faith in God? How is God calling you to trust him now?